

Article on Lucretius and "Death is Nothing to Us"

Post by "Don" of April 14, 2025 at 7:49 AM

Okay, as an experiment, I've added Epicurist as the translation of ΕΠΙΚΟΥΡΕΙΟΣ on my avatar. Just trying it on for size.

I had the thought that I kind of like the parallel with "scientist." Epicurist philosophy? Epicuric philosophy? I realize this wordplay swims against centuries of usage of "Epicurean" so I don't expect it to "catch on." But play is pleasure so let's play a little. Let's be real: the name of the website is EpicureanFriends after all 😄

Citations from Oxford English Dictionary (earliest 1579):

1579 Which fantasie that good man Epicurus, and all Epicuristes [Dutch Epicuristen] haue likewise followed, and stoutlie defended.

G. Gilpin, translation of P. van Marnix van Sant Aldegonde, Bee Hiue of Romishe Church 107

1610 Were not the Epicurists [Latin Epicurei] in great accoumpt at Athens?

J. Healey, translation of St. Augustine, Citie of God xviii. xli. 729

1787 I was ready to cry out with the Epicurist.

W. Wallbeck, Fables Ded. p. xxi

or Peasant came across to direct me home! One wretched night which I passed in a Wood, for want of such fortunate occurrence, was made more wretched, as I thought, than sleepless hunger could have made it, had I but had a light, and LAFONTAINE to have cheered me. Though, to tell the truth, I was under such apprehensions of the Aborigines of that Country,—the Wolves,—that I wished more for light by which to escape, than to study. What gave full force to my terrors, was, that I knew for certain a Wolf had paid a visit a very little while before, and in the day time too, at a Village thereabout, and made bold with the haunch of a Peasant sleeping in a Barn.* Nor Wolves only, but Bears, wild Boars, and wild Beasts of all kinds crowded upon my imagination; and I was ready to cry out with the Epicurist,

—— *Genus horrifera Natura ferarum,
Humanæ genti infestum, terraque marique,
Cur alit?*

Happily I escaped, without other harm than a cold; but I took care that my favourite Companion should never lead me into such another scrape.

* Such accidents are very rare in Summer time: the Wolves inhabit the inaccessible summits of the JURA, and seldom descend unless driven by extreme hunger; or dislodged by snow. The one which

1860 He did not pause with the speculative Epicurists, who care to follow an idea only so far as it makes things easy.

Dial April 259

1967 The Epicurists and some Stoics condoned suicide because they embraced the point of view that death is the cure for all ills.

Psychoanalytic Review vol. 54 424

2011 To concentrate on the present, a practice the Stoics and Epicurists valued greatly.

C. Dunker, *Constit. Psychoanalytic Clinic* v. 121